Assurance to Tobacco farmers regarding non-reduction in Tobacco cultivation

7610. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any assurance to tobacco growers that it would not curb or reduce tobacco cultivation under pressure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how Government propose to encourage tobacco farmers to continue their tobacco cultivation; and

(d) steps proposed to protect the traditional foreign exchange earning crops like tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The tobacco Board fixes the crop size of Virginia-tobacco every year in Andhra Pradesh and Karnnataka after asstssing its inter-national|domestic demand and supply position.

(c) With a view to help tobacco farmers to enhance quality and yield of tobacco, Tobacco Board implements developmental and extension schemes which include supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco, training and exposure of farmers to the latest research findings, pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries, subsidising use of sprinkler irrigation system and improving curing and storing facilities.

(d) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of tobacco and tobacco products include, re-orientation of production of tobacco to meet the changing international needs, monitoring and control of pesticide residues aligning grading to international standards, permitting imports for product development, sponsoring trade delegations and participation in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

Strategy to promote traditional Indian exports

7611. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers long terms strategy to safeguard, protect and promote traditional exports like sandalwood;

(b) whether Government will consider formation of a Timber Export Board, catering purely to valuable timber resources like Sandalwood and other rare and valuable timbers; and

(c) steps propose in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export of Sandalwood in its raw form is prohibited under the existing Export-Import Policy. This is to promote the export of finished handicrafts made out of Sandalwood. To exploit the export potential of Sandalwood products fully the Policy for export of finished handicrafts made out of sandalwood and machine finished Sandalwood products has been liberalised.

(b) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

भारतीय व्यापार मेला प्राधिकरण द्वारा प्रगति मैदान में आयोजित मेलें

7612. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय व्यापार मेला प्राधिकरण द्वारा 1993-94 और 1994-95 के वर्षों के दौरान नयी दिल्ली स्थित प्रगति मैदान में कितनी प्रदर्शनियों तथा मेलों का आयोजन किया गया ;

(ख) उपर्युक्त अवधि के दौरान व्यापार मेला प्राधिकरण को टिकटों की बिक्री से कितना लाभ हुआ ;

(ग) प्रगति मैदान में इस समय कुल कितना स्टाफ कार्यरत है ; और

(घ) प्रगति मैदान के रख-रखाव पर प्रति वर्ष कितनी धनराशि खर्च की जाती है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) : (क) भारत व्यापार संवर्धन संगठन (भूतपूर्व टी एफ ए आई) द्वारा वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान प्रगति मैदान में लगाई गई प्रदर्शनियों/मेलों की संख्या क्रमश: 8 और 10 थी ।

(ख) इस संगठन ने वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान प्रवेश टिकटों की बिक्री के जरिए क्रमश: 88.23 लाख रुपए और 112.14 लाख रुपए (अनंतिम) अर्जित किए ।

(ग) इस समय प्रगति मैदान में 1190 कर्मचारी कार्य करते हैं ।

(घ) वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान प्रगति मैदान के रख-रखाव में क्रमश: 226.18 लाख रु० तथा 319.59 लाख रु० (अनंतिम) का खर्च आया ।

Protest over rise in prices of goods to take advantage of market conditions under GATT

7613. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the GATT agreement any member country can protest over the abnormal rise in prices of certain goods to take advantage of market conditions;

(b) what is the mechanism to check prices and excessive profits in certain commodities in which certain countries have monopoly; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up with W.T.O. the issue of price rise in the newsprint from US $ 300 in 1994 to US $ 1000 in 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The GATT/WTO Agreement does not deal with the pricing of goods and services.

(c) Does not arise.

Emerging markets for Indian goods

7614. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are new emerging markets identified for Indian goods;

(b) what steps are taken to popularise the Indian goods in these markets; and

(c) whether any exclusive Indian trade fair has been organised in these places. If so, how many trade fairs were organised during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export performance covering major commodities and countries is being continuously reviewed so as to identify new markets, areas and opportunities. Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and the concerned institutions.

(b) The Government endeavours to promote exports and popularise Indian goods in all countries and keeping these in view, measures like holding Joint Commission meetings, exchange of trade and industry delegations, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars, trading programmes and buyer-sellers meet are undertaken.

(c) During 1994-95, 34 fairs/exhibitions were organised abroad by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation.

Collaboration of Indian companies in projects abroad

7615. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: